



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS FROM UNITS IN V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION RETURN HOME FROM IRAQ

280th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office release

SCHWEINFURT, Germany -- More than 300 Soldiers from units of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division based here returned from their year of duty in Iraq February 9.

The troops returned in three groups over a span of about three hours, and were welcomed at short ceremonies at Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks. The groups included Soldiers from several division units, including the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; the 9th Engineer Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor.



KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH

Jacob O'Carroll, 9, waits for the best shot with his camera in hand, while his brother, Daniel, 11, looks through the viewfinder of his own camera. Their mother, Kailee Carroll (center), smiles as she spots her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Carroll of the 9th Engineer Battalion. In the background, Haley points out her dad, Sgt. Byron White, to her sister, Caitlyn. The sergeants were among three groups totaling about 300 Soldiers from V Corps' 1st Infantry Division to return to their excited families in Schweinfurt, Germany February 9.

As family members and friends waited to reunite with their Soldiers, and supporters from the units' Family Readiness Groups came to welcome to the returning troops,

the Soldiers marched into the gym through a cloud of smoke, making their return more dramatic.

Each of the ceremonies began with a short prayer, followed by a brief welcome from the rear detachment commander for the 1st Infantry Division, Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, who then dismissed the Soldiers to rejoin their families and friends in the cheering crowd.

